

Appln. No.: 09/373,230  
Amdt. dated: April 16, 2009  
Reply to Office Action of January 23, 2009

### **Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-25 (Cancelled).

26 (Currently amended). ~~The~~ An isolated variant of interferon-gamma (IFN- $\gamma$ ) production inducing protein ~~of claim 18,~~ also known as IGIF and IL-18, which IFN- $\gamma$  production inducing protein has an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, where the Xaa in SEQ ID NO:2 is Met or Thr, wherein said variant thereof has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 except that, at least, (i) one or two amino acids in SEQ ID NO:2 are replaced with other amino acids, or (ii) one amino acid is added to the N- or C-terminal in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, while retaining IFN- $\gamma$  production inducing ability, said variant inducing IFN- $\gamma$  production when administered to mouse and rat, exhibiting a single protein band when electrophoresed on sodium dodecylsulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE), and having a molecular weight of 19,000 $\pm$ 5,000 daltons on gel filtration and SDS-PAGE.

27 (Previously Presented). A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier and, as an active ingredient, the isolated interferon-gamma (IFN- $\gamma$ ) production inducing protein of claim 26.

Claim 28 (Cancelled).